THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) has inbuilt mechanism for constant and vigilant monitoring through participatory approach. The Monthly Progress Reports indicating physical and financial progress are required to be sent to the Ministry in the prescribed format. The system of reporting progress has been made mandatory from Block to District, District to State and State to the Centre. Review meetings at nine regional centres were proposed in the first phase to monitor the progress of implementation and the preparation of Perspective Plans, out of which eight review meetings have been held at Pune, Patna, Bhubneshwar, Hyderabad, Raipur, Bhopal, Guwahati and Ranchi. Some of these meetings were also attended by Minister of Rural Development, Government of India and Members, Planning Commission. Since the inception of the programme (November, 2004) till June, 2005 an amount of Rs. 2780.99 crore have been released alongwith 28.26 Lakh tonnes of foodgrains. Out of which 840.75 crore has been utilized and 6.04 lakh MTs of foodgrains distributed. As a result, 1298.67 lakh mandays have been generated through creation of 36,690 economic and social assets and 31,232 works under progress.

(c) and (d) As has been stated above, the programme guidelines provide for constitution of work-wise vigilance and monitoring committees having five to nine members of the beneficiaries. Representation of SC/ST and women members in the vigilance and monitoring committee is must. The committee is required to oversee the progress of the works and the report of this committee is to be attached with the completion report which should be placed and discussed in the meetings of the Gram Sabha. Besides, there is schedule of inspections for various levels of functionaries from State to the Block level. A certain minimum number of inspections have to be carried out by these State Government Officials. Apart from the above, Senior Officers of this Ministry also undertake sample inspection of works under Area Officers Scheme.

Fudged muster rolls in Food For Work Programme

1092. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that muster rolls have been fudged to siphon off funds from the National Food For Work Programme;

(b) whether it is a fact that the legal minimum wages are prescribed in the programmes has not been paid to the workers; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) No report of fudging of muster rolls have so far been received by the Ministry. Some instances of lesser payment of wages reported in the press were brought to the notice of the State Governments concerned. Madhya Pradesh has registered cases against two Panchayats for payment less than minimum wage. However, some reports regarding the delay in payment of wages have been received which has caused due to non/less availability of foodgrains in the FCI godowns at some places. Keeping this in view, the States have been given flexibility of compensating foodgrains component of wages in the form of cash if the foodgrains are not available. This has been done to provide unhindered and timely payment of full notified minimum wages to workers. Instructions have been reiterated to the State Governments to ensure compliance of the Guidelines as regards minimum wages and other issues.

Reallocation of watershed targets in Maharashtra

1093. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra has requested to Central Government to authorize the State Government to reallocate watershed targets at the district level in accordance with local conditions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) In June 2004, the Government of Maharashtra informed that the State had prepared a detailed prioritisation Atlas for undertaking integrated development of rural areas on watershed basis and requested for sanction of Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) projects as per watershed prioritisation decided by the state.